

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 COME-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
/088 W

-----240814 023694 /11

R 221130Z FEB 77 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INT BAGHDAD 209
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
RUQMNS AMEMBASSY SANA 981
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DOHA 0240

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, QA
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF AMIR OF QATAR ON SECY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP

REF: DOHA 207 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: I HAVE BRIEFED AMIR OF QATAR ON SECY'S
PERCEPTIONS FROM HIS MIDEAST TRIP, EMPHASIZING USG'S
COMMITMENT AND SENSE OF URGENCY ON MOVING TOWARD COMPREHEN-
SIVE SETTLEMENT, AND APPRECIATION OF DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED,
ESPECIALLY ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE. AMIR HAS REITERATED
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THAT WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY BEFORE MODERATES
PRESENTLY IN CONTROL OF ARAB GOVTS AND PLO ARE SWEEPED AWAY BY
FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MID EAST PEACE ACCEPTABLE TO ARABS.
AMIR WELCOMED FORMULATION OF US ENERGY POLICY BASED ON CON-
SERVATION AND COMMITMENT TO REDUCE ARMS SALES. RE LATTER,
HE SAID SUCCESS IN THIS AREA WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS
TOWARD MID EAST PEACE. RE BOYCOTT, AMIR WARNED AGAINST

CONFRONTATIVE LEGISLATION WHICH HE SAID WOULD DAMAGE NOT ONLY OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, BUT OUR ROLE AS AREA PEACEMAKER. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB 22 I BRIEFED AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, ON SECRETARY'S MID EAST TRIP, DRAWING ON DISCUSSIONS DURING SECY'S FEB 20 MEETING IN RIYADH WITH GULF/ ARABIAN PENINSULA CHIEFS OF MISSION. I CONVEYED SECY'S PERCEPTION OF UNANIMOUSLY STRONG DESIRE FOR PEACE IN AREA SO RESOURCES OF RESPECTIVE PARTIES CAN BE DIVERTED FROM PRIMARILY MILITARY USE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. I INFORMED AMIR THAT THERE WAS CONSENSUS ON RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE, PROBABLY THIS FALL, ALTHOUGH THERE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE. I TOLD KHALIFA THAT AFTER FIRSTHAND LOOK, SECY HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT ROAD TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WOULD BE EASY, BUT THAT HE HAD EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT'S AND HIS APPRECIATION OF URGENCY OF MOVING TOWARD PEACE AND NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO PLAY FULL ROLE IN PROCESS, AND SECRETARY'S TRIP CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THIS COMMITMENT.

3. AMIR REITERATED SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME DURING OUR LAST WEEK'S CONVERSATION (REFTEL). HE STRESSED THAT WE MUST MOVE WHILE MODERATES IN CONTROL OF KEY ARAB GOVTS AND PLO, OR RISK LOSING OPPORTUNITY FOR SETTLEMENT, WHICH LOSS COULD PLUNGE AREA INTO WAR, CHAOS, RADICALISM AND EVENTUAL SOVIET DOMINANCE. AMIR ASSERTED THAT HIS NECK TOO WAS ON THE BLOCK AND SO HE HAD DIRECT CONCERN IN SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS. HE REPEATED FAMILIAR THEME THAT PRINCIPAL

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US ROLE WAS TO PRESSURE ISRAELIS INTO WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN STATE, THE BASICS OF ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

4. I TOLD KHALIFA THAT IT WAS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF U.S. PRESSURE DELIVERING ISRAEL, BUT THAT ARABS NEEDED SOME DELIVERING TOO ON SUCH VITAL CONSIDERATIONS AS PLO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, DEFINITION OF PEACE, AND EVOLUTION OF NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAELIS. I REMARKED THAT AS A MAJOR BANKROLLER OF CONFRONTATION STATES, QATAR WITH OTHER LARGE CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD EXERT CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE IN THESE AREAS. AMIR REPLIED TO EFFECT WHAT MORE DID WE WANT FROM ARABS WHO HAD COME FULL CIRCLE FROM DECLARED DETERMINATION TO DESTROY ISRAEL TO RECOGNITION OF EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI STATE WITHIN '67 BOUNDARIES AND WILLINGNESS TO SIGN PEACE TREATY. HE INSISTED THAT MODERATE ARABS HAD LITTLE MORE TO GIVE WITHOUT OPENING THEMSELVES TO CHARGES OF TREASON FROM LIBYANS, IRAQIS AND PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS WHO WERE WAITING OPPORTUNITY TO BRING MODERATES DOWN.

5. I ASKED AMIR WHAT HE SAW AS POSSIBLE WAY TO BREAK IMPASSE OVER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION/STATE ISSUE. HE ANSWERED THAT HE WAS NOT PRIVY TO LATEST ON SUBJECT, BUT IT CLEAR THAT EGYPTIANS, SYRIANS, JORDANIANS AND PLO WERE WORKING INTENSELY TO FIND A REASONABLE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD LINK PALESTINIAN STATE TO JORDAN AND POSSIBLY SYRIA SO AS TO ASSURE AGAINST ITS BECOMING THREAT TO ISRAEL AND THORN IN SIDE OF MODERATE ARABS AS WELL. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT AS IT WAS NECESSARY FOR PLO TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL, THERE MUST BE SIMULTANEOUS MOVEMENT FROM ISRAELIS TO RECOGNIZE PALESTINIANS AS A PEOPLE AND ACCEPT SOME SORT OF PALESTINIAN STATE.

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R 221130Z FEB 77
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6. ON OTHER SEPARATE ISSUES, I TOLD AMIR THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD SOON BE DECLARING ITS POLICY ON BOYCOTT AND THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE NEW LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO CONFIRM OUR

OPPOSITION TO BOYCOTT AS WELL AS TO PREEMPT MOVES IN CONGRESS FOR EXTREME LEGISLATION. AMIR WARNED AGAINST ANY CONFRONTATIVE LEGISLATION ON BOYCOTT, WHICH HE SAID COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE AMERICAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD AS WELL AS SOUR ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT. I POINTED OUT THAT US WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF BOYCOTT AND WOULD MAINTAIN PRINCIPLED POSITION ON THESE ASPECTS. AMIR SAID BOYCOTT WAS A POLITICAL/ECONOMIC
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WEAPON LEGITIMATELY USED BY ARABS AS IT HAS BEEN BY U.S. HE NOTED THAT MID EAST SETTLEMENT WOULD CAUSE BOYCOTT TO DISAPPEAR, AND ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THIS.

7. ON ENERGY, I EXPLAINED TO AMIR THAT ADMINISTRATION POLICY EMPHASIZING CONSERVATION WAS IN THE WORKS AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN ABOUT A MONTH. AMIR AGREED THAT CONSERVATION OF WORLD'S DWINDLING ENERGY RESOURCES WAS KEYSTONE IN RATIONALIZING CONSUMER/PRODUCER RELATIONS IN ALL SPHERES.

8. ON ARMS SALES POLICY, I INFORMED AMIR THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BACK UP HIS CAMPAIGN POSITIONS WITH MAJOR EFFORT TO REDUCE ARMS SALES AND THIS WOULD HAVE IMPACT ON AMIR'S DECLARED INTEREST IN F-5 AIRCRAFT (SEPTIL). AMIR REMARKED THAT ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD WERE PRAISE-WORTHY, BUT IN MID EAST AREA THEIR SUCCESS WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT.
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